

WEB COPY

Court

Minute of Meeting held on Wednesday 12 October 2016 in the Senate Room

Present:

Mr Ken Brown Co-opted Member, Ms Morag Deans SRC Assessor, Professor Lindsay Farmer Senate Assessor, Dr Carl Goodyear Senate Assessor, Mr Ameer Ibrahim SRC President, Professor Karen Lury Senate Assessor, Dr Morag Macdonald Simpson General Council Assessor, Ms Margaret Anne McParland Employee Representative, Mr Ronnie Mercer Co-opted Member, Ms June Milligan Co-opted Member, Ms Margaret Morton Co-opted Member, Professor Anton Muscatelli Principal, Ms Elspeth Orcharton Co-opted Member, Ms Elizabeth Passey Co-opted Member (Convener of Court), Dr Duncan Ross Senate Assessor, Ms Lesley Sutherland General Council Assessor

In attendance:

Ms Ann Allen (Director of Estates & Buildings), Professor Anne Anderson (Head of College of Social Sciences and Vice-Principal), Ms Christine Barr (Director of Human Resources), Professor John Briggs (Clerk of Senate), Professor Frank Coton (Vice Principal Academic and Educational Innovation), Professor Anna Dominiczak (Head of College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences and Vice-Principal), Mr Robert Fraser (Director of Finance), Professor Neal Juster (Senior Vice-Principal), Ms Deborah Maddern (Administrative Officer), Mr David Newall (Secretary of Court), Professor Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh (Head of College of Arts and Vice-Principal)

Apologies:

Members: Mr Dave Anderson Employee Representative, Mr Graeme Bissett Co-opted Member, Ms Heather Cousins Co-opted Member, Professor Nick Hill Senate Assessor, Cllr Pauline McKeever Glasgow City Council Representative, Mr David Milloy Co-opted Member, Mr Murdoch MacLennan Chancellor's Assessor, Professor Paul Younger Senate Assessor

Attendees: Professor James Conroy (Vice-Principal Internationalisation), Professor Muffy Calder (Head of College of Science & Engineering and Vice-Principal), Professor Jon Cooper (Vice-Principal Innovation & Knowledge Exchange), Professor Miles Padgett (Vice-Principal Research)

CRT/2011/1. Announcements

Elizabeth Passey opened her first meeting as Convener of Court.

Mr Ameer Ibrahim was welcomed to his first meeting in his capacity as SRC President, having attended the June meeting as an observer. Ms Elspeth Orcharton, a new Co-opted member of Court, was welcomed to her first meeting.

There were no declarations of interest in relation to business to be conducted at the meeting.

CRT/2016/2. Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 22 June 2016

The minutes were approved and signed by the Convener as a correct record.

CRT/2016/3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CRT/2016/4. Report from the Principal

CRT 2016/4.1 Guild of European Research Intensive Universities

In previous reports, the Principal had referred to the formation of the Guild of European Research Intensive Universities, founded by a group of world-leading universities. The Guild brought together universities that had demonstrable excellence in teaching, research and policy formation, on a pan-European basis, to collaborate on the creation of innovative solutions to scientific and social challenges. The Principal was Vice-Chair of the Guild, which had met during 2016 and would be formally launched in November. In the meantime, in the light of the UK's decision to leave the European Union, the current members of the Guild had called for enhanced European university collaboration.

CRT 2016/4.2 Higher Education and Research White Paper: Success as a Knowledge Economy: Teaching Excellence, Social mobility and Student Choice (BIS, UK Government).

At the last meeting, the Principal had reported that the White paper had been published in May, with core elements including the intention to make it easier for new providers to set up and gain degree awarding powers, the introduction of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and other measures including the creation of an Office for Students (OfS) and a new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) body.

From a Scottish perspective, the TEF continued to cause some concerns, given that the HE sector in Scotland generally valued the Scottish Framework for Enhancement and would not wish to jeopardise this approach in favour of the TEF. There was, however, a potential negative reputational impact that could develop if Scottish universities were not in the TEF.

Court noted TEF would have three levels: (Entry level) Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Department for Education in England had published a list of Higher Education providers - including all Scottish HEIs - that had met the baseline 'Bronze' grade. TEF would be progressively developed over the next few years from an institutional (Provider) level assessment to a subject level assessment. Most Scottish Universities would not enter the Provider-level TEF stage until the 'rules of engagement' for Scottish institutions were clear and there was a concern that Scotland should not be disadvantaged. Universities Scotland had established a working group to provide advice on Scotland's position on TEF, in particular subject-level TEF. The Department for Education was engaging with the Scottish HE sector over the new provisions. The Scottish Government had indicated that it did not intend to link TEF ratings to an institution's ability to set tuition fees at a certain level. Court noted that it was possible that world rankings systems might in the future include TEF ratings in calculations, and that this area needed to be kept under careful review.

CRT 2016/4.3 Student Admissions including RUK

Court noted details of student admissions figures for 2016 entry, for Undergraduate and Postgraduate (PGT/PGR), Home, RUK and International students, noting also that targets had been met.

Court noted that SMGr had recently agreed that with regard to the level of tuition fee for rUK students for 2017 entry, if certain HEIs in England moved to a £9,250 per annum fee, then the University should also move to charge £9,250, capped at 3 years, with no charge for 4th year.

The agreement to lift the fee cap in Scotland to £9,250 had been reached with the Scottish Government. If HEIs in England did not implement the increase, the fee level would remain at £9k. Court noted that evidence from the sector as a whole was that applicants associated cost levels with quality.

Court also noted that in May 2017 there would be a discussion around whether to continue the policy for rUK students of charging fees for 3 years or move to charge for 4 years. Court noted a comment from the SRC President that student views should be taken into account and incorporated into ongoing consultation. With regard to EU students, SMGr had agreed that in the absence of certainty around future government policy, the University should not undertake to maintain current fee arrangements for EU students for 2018 entry and beyond.

In discussion, Court noted that with regard to rUK students, the question of the financial ability of a student to take up a place under the current arrangements, where fees were charged for 3 years with the 4th year free, was addressed through the University's funding packages for those on lower incomes. Such packages would also require to be put in place were there a move to charging for the 4th year, following this matter being discussed in May 2017. Court also noted that the balance of EU/Home students might be reviewed in future, in the context of risk management in a climate of uncertainty.

The SRC President noted that the proposal to increase fees to £9,250 would add to the very significant cost now borne by rUK students in Scotland, in particular in those universities that charged fees for a full four years of study. It would put certain students at a disadvantage. While recognising this concern, Court noted that the current fee level did not appear to have suppressed the demand by rUK students to study in Scotland.

CRT 2016/4.4 Standing Council on Europe

In late June, the Principal had been appointed by the First Minister to chair a group of experts to advise the Scottish Government on securing Scotland's relationship with the EU. The group's role was to advise the First Minister and the Scottish Government on a number of strategic areas, on a non-political basis.

CRT 2016/4.5 University Rankings and Awards

In recent international league tables, the University had been placed 88th in the THE World Rankings, down from 76th last year. In the QS World University Rankings, the University had been placed 63rd, one place lower than last year.

This year's National Student Survey (NSS) rankings had put the University of Glasgow in joint third position in Scotland and joint 24th among all UK Higher Education institutions, excluding specialist and private providers. The University had been joint 7th in the Russell Group. Despite a continued decrease year on year, overall satisfaction for Glasgow had continued to exceed all sector, Russell Group and Scotland averages. The sector, as a whole, had remained flat year on year.

For the second year running, the University of Glasgow had won the top title - Higher Education Institution of the Year - at The Herald's Higher Education Awards. The University had also been successful in a number of student categories and in categories covering academic activity and research.

CRT 2016/4.6 Key Activities

Court noted a summary of some of the main activities in which the Principal had been involved since the last meeting of Court, covering internal and external activities beyond daily

operational management and strategy meetings. The activities were under the broad headings of: Academic Development and Strategy; Internationalisation activities; Lobbying/Policy Influencing and Promoting the University; Internal activities and Communications.

CRT/2016/5. Report from the Secretary of Court

CRT/2016/5.1 Court Strategy Day

Court's annual strategy day had taken place on 26 September, the programme having included a substantial session on the Campus Estates Strategy and development of the Capital Plan. The day had been positively received. The Court Estates Strategy Working Group had met on 3 October and its business had included receipt of a summary of feedback from the strategy day discussion on the Estates session. SMG would now take steps to create and present an updated Capital Plan to Court in December 2016. A full business case for the Learning & Teaching building would also be presented to the December meeting of Court.

CRT/2016/5.2 Competition and Markets Authority: Student Debt

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) had advised that in its opinion the University's use of academic sanctions to enforce a non-tuition fee debt was unlawful and had requested that the University amend its debt policy.

Court noted that when a student was having difficulty in clearing debt, the University's approach was supportive, including an offer of assistance in the form of flexible payment plans and advice on financial management. However, in common with the majority of universities in Scotland, the University insisted that debt was ultimately cleared before the student graduated, or proceeded to the next year of study. That sanction was expressed in the University Calendar.

The Secretary of Court and Director of Finance, together with the University's lawyer, had met with the CMA in August, and there was ongoing discussion of the matter. This included the CMA having been challenged about its contention that the debt policy was illegal. Court noted that the CMA had very recently advised that it continued to view the policy as illegal.

Court noted that other institutions varied in their approach to the matter, but with a number operating the same system as the one currently in operation at the University.

Court agreed that the Secretary of Court and Director of Finance should enter into further discussion with the CMA, and hoped that these discussions might result in agreement on a satisfactory way forward. Should the discussion lead to recommendations regarding the terms of the University's debt policy, Court would consider these by email so as to avoid unnecessary delay in reaching agreement with the CMA.

CRT/2016/5.3 Scheme of Delegated Authorities

The Scheme, which formally sets out where responsibilities lay in the University across the main areas of activity, had been reviewed and refreshed. Court noted that a small number of other areas including those relating to the IT strategy would be added and that the finalised reviewed scheme would be included in the papers for the December meeting

CRT/2016/5.4 Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act – Transitional Arrangements

The intention of the Scottish Government was that the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act would come into force in either late 2016 or early 2017. Different provisions might start at

different times, with the more substantial and complex matters commencing later. Amended arrangements for membership of both Court and Senate, arising from the Act, were subject to a transition period of 4 years. This would allow existing terms of office to expire and would give time for some amendments to the configuration of Court to be agreed.

As previously agreed at Court, there would be as little disruption as possible to Court's existing membership categories, retaining the membership at 25 (and no more), and retaining a clear lay majority.

Court agreed that it supported early discussion with Senate and with the Trade Unions about possibilities and options to effect the required changes to the composition of Court. The Principal advised that he would establish a joint Court/Senate working group to facilitate discussions.

CRT/2016/5.5 Remuneration Committee Business

Remuneration Committee would conduct the annual review of the salaries of SMG members, in November. In line with established practice, it would submit a full minute of that meeting to the December meeting of Court, summarising the decisions it had made and setting out their rationale.

In 2014, the Committee of Scottish Chairs had issued a Guidance Note for Remuneration Committees. One aspect of this guidance was that 'each year, in advance of the committee's annual review of senior salaries, the governing body should provide policy guidance to the committee'. Court had received for consideration a proposed method of reviewing senior management salaries for 2016, as follows, which was in line with wording agreed in 2015:

Remuneration Committee's review of the salaries of members of SMG will be informed by:

- *a statement of each SMG member's salary for this and the previous 4 years;*
- *benchmark information, from the Universities and Colleges Employers Association, showing how Glasgow's salary levels compare with those of other UK universities;*
- *advice from the Principal on the performance of each member of the SMG in 2015/16, following his P&DR discussions with them; and*
- *in respect of the Principal, advice on performance from the Convener of Court, following her P&DR discussion with the Principal and reflecting the views she has obtained on the Principal's performance through consultation with staff, students and lay governors.*

In considering the appropriate level of reward, the Committee intends to:

- *provide tangible reward for excellent performance;*
- *give consideration to any cases where the salary awarded by the University is substantially out of line with that of managers in equivalent positions at comparable universities; and*
- *apply a general principle that percentage pay increases for senior managers should not be higher than those for the workforce as a whole.*

Court approved the text subject to it being revised to include a requirement that Remuneration Committee cover two matters in its report to Court. The first of these was the nature of the benchmarking information used to compare senior salaries at Glasgow with those in other universities. The second was the precise basis on which the Committee had applied the principle that percentage pay increases for senior managers should not be higher than those for the workforce as a whole.

CRT/2016/5.6 Anti Bribery Policy

The Audit Committee had suggested that Court might consider whether the scope of the University's Anti Bribery policy, including matters relating to training, should be extended to include lay as well as executive officers. This would include Court members and external members of relevant Court committees.

Court agreed that the policy should be so extended.

CRT/2016/5.7 Composition of Audit Committee

Court agreed that the Audit Committee should in future include one staff member, identified from among the Senate Assessors.

CRT/2016/5.8 Vice-Chairs / Vice-Convenor

Court agreed arrangements relating to a Vice-convenor of Court and Vice-chairs of Court Committees being appointed.

The Vice-convenor of Court would deputise for the Convenor of Court in her absence. The Vice-convenor would be appointed by Court on the nomination of the Convenor.

The Vice-chair of each Court committee would deputise for the Chair in his/her absence. The Vice-chair would be appointed by the Committee, on the nomination of the Chair. It was agreed in addition that the Vice-chair of any Committee would be drawn only from lay members.

Standing Orders would be amended accordingly.

CRT/2016/5.9 Nominations Committee business

i) Court and Committees

- Ms Elspeth Orcharton had been appointed as a Co-opted member of Court. Ms Orcharton would also serve on the Finance Committee. Both appointments would be for a 4 year term beginning on 10 October 2016.
- Court approved a recommendation from the Nominations Committee that June Milligan become chair of the Human Resources Committee, with immediate effect and for the same period as her term of office on Court, which would run until October 2019.
- Margaret Morton was demitting office as a Co-opted member of Court. This would leave a vacancy for chair of the Estates Committee. Court approved a recommendation from the Nominations Committee that Ronnie Mercer become chair of the Estates Committee, with immediate effect and for the same period as his term of office on Court, which would run until October 2019.
- Court approved a recommendation from the Nominations Committee that Lesley Sutherland join that Committee, with immediate effect and for the same period as her term of office on Court, which would run until July 2018.

ii) Nominations Committee remit

Court approved a minor change to the remit of the Nominations Committee, such that part of it would read *To make recommendations to Court on the appointment of Court committee members, in consultation with the relevant Committee chairs; and to make recommendations on the convenership of Court committees.*

CRT/2016/5.10 Committee Remits

Consistent with the amendment to the Nominations Committee remit, Court agreed that the remit of each Court Committee be edited to reflect the role of the Committee and its Chair in ensuring that the Committee had the necessary skills and experience to address its remit effectively, as follows:

To ensure that the Committee's membership includes the skills and experience necessary to address its remit effectively. To this end, the Committee may request that the University Court appoint one or more additional co-opted members to the Committee. The Chair of the Committee will participate in the selection process for a new co-opted member.

Court also agreed that as a matter of good governance, a wider review of the composition of all Court Committees should be undertaken, to include looking at practice elsewhere in the sector. The exercise would be co-ordinated through the Nominations Committee and would include input being sought from Court.

CRT/2016/5.11 Court Business 2016/17

Court approved changes to the wording of Standing Orders for Court, reflecting the outcome of the Court Governance Working Group's consideration (earlier in 2016) of the HE Governance Act and areas within the Standing Orders that required reviewing as a consequence.

(The Standing Orders will also be amended to reflect Court's agreement relating to the Vice-convenor and Vice-chair appointments (Minute *CRT/2016/5.8* refers); and to the requirement to notify the Secretary of Court about matters to be raised under Any Other Business (Minute *CRT/2016/11* refers).)

Court noted: appendices to the Standing Orders with details of Court committee dates for this session; Remits of Court Committees, which were subject to changes as agreed and would also be subject to any amendments recommended following the agreed wider review of their composition; the Statement of Primary Responsibilities; and the Schedule of Court Business for the coming year.

The attendance lists for meetings of Court and its Committees for 2015/16 had been reviewed; there were no outstanding issues for Court to note in connection with this.

CRT/2016/5.12 Review of Code of Governance

The current Governance Code for Scottish Higher Education has been published by the Committee of Scottish Chairs in July 2013. At the time of publication, the chairs had committed to a review of the Code after three years. A Review Committee had been established, whose evidence-gathering process had included consultative visits to each of the Scottish HEIs to hold a set of structured meetings. The outcome of the review was expected in November.

CRT/2016/5.13 Campus Development Financing/Glasgow Student Villages

In April 2016, Court had approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee, agreeing to a financial strategy for the campus development, involving a mix of private placements with UK and US institutions, a term loan from the European Investment Bank and, subject to satisfactory terms being negotiated, the refinancing of the Glasgow Student Villages debt. Having approved this recommendation, Court had also agreed to establish a special purpose working group to oversee implementation of the strategy. Court noted a report from the group.

CRT/2016/5.14 Court Procedural Review Group

On Court's behalf the Court Procedural Review Group considered proposals on organisational change. It had the authority to instruct management to implement proposals. Alternatively, it might decide not to authorise the proposals, and/or to refer them to Court for discussion. In July, the Group had agreed that management should be given authority to implement organisational change in the Law School. The proposal, which was supported by the Social Sciences College Management Group, had arisen from changes already approved to the curriculum, and involved a reduction in staffing of up to 1.5 FTE.

CRT/2016/5.15 Appointments of Head of School

College of Arts

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Professor Vicente Perez De Leon, University of Melbourne, had been appointed as Head of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures from 1 August 2017, for 2 years in the first instance. Professor Michael Syrotinski would be acting Head of SMLC until 31 July 2017.

College of Social Sciences

Adam Smith Business School

Professor John Finch had been appointed as Head of the Adam Smith Business School for 4 years commencing 1 September 2016.

CRT/2016/5.16 Queen Margaret Union

On Court's behalf, the Secretary of Court had reviewed and approved minor changes to the constitution of the Queen Margaret Union, as approved by the Union's Annual General Meeting in June.

CRT/2016/6. Learning & Teaching Strategy

Professor Frank Coton updated Court on the Learning and Teaching Strategy, including performance against Key Performance Indicators, which were noted by Court.

With regard to the National Student Survey, there had been a small decrease in overall student satisfaction, from 90% to 89%, since the previous year. Court noted that the University worked closely with the SRC with regard to NSS-related activity. A NSS Task Group had been set up to develop a campaign for positive promotion of the student experience; to understand and develop actions to address University-wide issues identified in NSS; and to develop a longer-term plan for support of the student experience. Action planning at local level was under way, and there was a focus on the culture across the entire organisation, which was important in ensuring the best possible student experience. An Assessment and Feedback Working Group had been established, to look at areas including assessment standards in exams, and Graduate Teaching Assistant practice including recognition and reward. A Feedback Toolkit had been launched; this was a web-based resource to help staff and students to understand and use the most appropriate forms of assessment and feedback in learning and teaching, and included case studies of practice. Court noted that there were variations by subject area, in NSS outcomes relating to assessment and feedback, and that the focus of measures to optimise the student experience in this area was directed at practice.

Professor Coton also briefed Court on areas of activity in the Teaching and Learning sphere. With respect to the Curriculum, a framework for a 'curriculum conversation' had been established; and English language support enhanced. In response to a question about course content, Court noted that the Clerk of Senate would look at existing policy relating to advising students if a lecture might contain potentially upsetting content. With respect to developments on the University estate, there had been continued upgrading of Library study space, nine teaching rooms refurbished to pilot Learning & Teaching Hub designs, and an academic steering group convened to support and evaluate new spaces. A Transitions Working Group had been established to support transitions into the University environment for all students; related activity included developing targeted support for Widening Access, International and Glasgow International College students. Court heard that with regard to online learning, there was continued roll out of online distance Masters programmes, an increase in blended and online courses on campus, and continued engagement with Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Court thanked Professor Coton for the briefing.

CRT/2016/7. Reports of Court Committees

CRT/2016/7.1 Finance Committee

CRT/2016/7.1.1 Committee Remit

Court approved a change to the remit of the Committee, as referred to in Minute *CRT/2016/5.10 Committee Remits*.

CRT/2016/7.1.2 Capex Applications

The Committee had approved CapEx applications relating to: Western Infirmary Site Enabling Works Finance Committee, where the Committee had agreed that commitments against the approved spend of £8.651m could be made on the authority of the Western Infirmary Site Governance Board. Should the anticipated cost rise above the approved sum, then a further report should be brought to Finance Committee; Wind Tunnel, Acre Road, fourth and final additional sum of £143k; and Campus Smart Card/Access Control System, £926k.

CRT/2016/7.1.3 Endowment Investment Report

Court noted an endowment investment report as at 31 July 2016.

CRT/2016/7.1.4 Financial reports

Court noted an overview of performance as at 31 July 2016.

Court agreed that financial information should be provided in more summary format for future meetings.

The report was noted.

CRT/2016/7.2 Audit Committee

CRT/2016/7.2.1 Risk Management

At the last meeting, Court had agreed that as part of its involvement in the area of risk

management, Court should, through the Audit Committee, receive the University's strategic risk register at each of Court's October meetings. Court heard that the register was compiled by a process involving scored risk analysis, including probability and effect, with risks then prioritised. Mitigating actions were included and assigned to appropriate senior management. A small number of the listed risks were further analysed in detail at each meeting of SMG during the year.

The risk register was noted. Comments were made with regard to greater commentary being needed - which it was noted however did occur in the version that Audit Committee saw regularly - and to more specific detail being required about what gave rise to some of the (more generalised) risks listed. It was also suggested that a RAG classification might be applied. Court members were asked to contact the Secretary of Court with any further comments; these would be relayed to the Audit Committee and to SMG. The Audit Committee would continue to receive the register regularly, including details of mitigating actions. The chair of the Committee, Heather Cousins, and Secretary of Court would also discuss this area further with a view to optimising processes.

CRT/2016/7.2.2 Anti Bribery policy

The matter had been discussed under item CRT/2016/5.5.

CRT/2016/7.2.3 Other Audit Committee business

At its recent meeting, the Committee had received reports on recent internal audit reviews. The external auditors had provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the 2015/16 audit, in particular the FRS102 conversion process; and the Committee had received a report on the management's approach to these areas. The Committee had received details of the University's corporate structure; and received a report on cases of research misconduct in 2015/16, the report being made annually to the Committee as required by the Research Councils. The Committee received an update on the Scottish HE Bill and the review of Scottish Code of Good HE Governance

The report was noted.

CRT/2016/7.3 Estates Committee

CRT/2016/7.3.1 Estates Strategy

Court noted the Estates Committee had received details about the pending review of the Capital Plan, and the potential impact on previously identified development priorities.

CRT/2016/7.3.2 CapEx Applications

Court noted Estates Committee's approval of CapEx applications relating to: Western Infirmary Enabling Works, £8,651k; Development of Supersonic Wind Tunnel, Acre Road, fourth and final additional sum of £143k; Smart Card Access Control, £926k.

With regard to the Sustainability Strategy it was noted that the governance board was due to meet in mid-October and would be chaired by Professor John Briggs in the absence of Professor Paul Younger.

The report was noted.

CRT/2016/7.4 Human Resources Committee

The Director of Human Resources' report to the Committee at its recent meeting had provided an update on the ongoing national pay dispute, on developments to the PDR and Academic Promotions processes, and on the 2016 Staff Survey, which had had a record level of participation. Court received summary details of the survey, noting the good progress made in a number of areas but also that there were areas for improvement that the Director of HR, Christine Barr, advised were being examined, with a focus on bottom-up analysis, involving Schools and Research Institutes. The Committee had also received an update on the implementation of the University Strategy, and discussed the People Strategy developed by the HR function in consultation with Managers and the Trade Unions. The Committee had also received a presentation on the output from the Cultural Diagnostic exercise carried out earlier in the year.

The report was noted.

CRT/2016/7.5 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee

The Committee had received: an update on the central recording of overseas travel risk assessments and insurance forms; details of progress on appointment of post of Business Continuity Officer (BCO); and a Staff survey overview from the Director of HR. With regard to processes for dealing with allegations of bullying or harassment, Court noted that these processes were managed at local level, with HR input, and that there was a programme of action to optimise these processes across the University; there were also provisions within leadership and management frameworks, covering the University's expectations about local management of the processes.

The Committee had covered its usual range of business in reviewing standard reports on Occupational Health activities and on accidents that had occurred in recent months; and on uptake of employee counselling.

The report was noted.

CRT/2016/8. Communications from Meeting of Council of Senate 6 October 2016

The Council of Senate had received an update on the Counselling and Psychological Services unit, for whose services there had been significant increase in demand in the past year. Court noted this increase was not unique to Glasgow but was nevertheless of concern and was being reviewed in terms of resource allocation. Council of Senate had also received: a report from its Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act working group, in respect of the Act's implications for the composition of Senate; a briefing on Research Beacons, broad-based themed areas of research excellence that had attracted major external investment; a briefing on the Teaching Excellence Framework; and a proposal for organisational change in the Learning & Teaching Centre.

Council of Senate had received a report from the Honorary Degrees Committee concerning recommendations for the conferment of honorary Degrees in 2017. In line with the previously agreed arrangement with Senate to allow members of Court to submit observations on nominations for honorary degrees, the Clerk of Senate John Briggs advised Court of the 2017 nominations, on a confidential basis. Members of Court could contact the Clerk of Senate should they have observations to make.

The communications were noted.

CRT/2016/9. Annual report for SFC – Institutional-led Review of Quality and Governing Body Statement of Assurance

Court had received a copy of the University's draft annual report to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) on institution-led review of quality for 2015-16. The contents were specified by the SFC. The statement summarised review activity undertaken by the University of its provision for students, i.e. Periodic Subject Reviews (PSR), Graduate School Reviews and the University Services Administrative Review Programme (ARP) carried out in respect of student-facing University services. Information concerning review activity carried out at the University by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies was also included.

Having noted details of how the University assured the effectiveness of arrangements for maintaining academic standards and quality, Court agreed that the required statement of assurance could be signed off by the Convener of Court

CRT/2016/10. Annual report on the University's Complaints Procedure 2015/16

Court noted the annual report on complaints activity during academic session 2015-16.

CRT/2016/11. Any Other Business

It was agreed that Standing Orders would be amended formally to include a reference to members being required to notify the Secretary of Court at least 2 days before a Court meeting, if they had items of Other Business for the meeting.

Morag Deans was attending her final meeting of Court. Court thanked her for her contributions to Court and wished her well in the future.

The clerk Deborah Maddern was thanked for implementing a number of innovations to the paperwork and format for the meeting. Court members' feedback on the paperwork - including the new context cards - and on processes, was requested.

CRT/2016/12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Court will be held on Wednesday 14 December 2016 at 2pm at Garscube Estate.